

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/748,238

Examiner

Allyson N. Trail

Applicant(s)

MIYAZAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed January 25, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-7,9-13 and 15-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed January 25, 2006.

Remarks

2. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-18 are currently pending. Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended and claims 2, 8, and 16 have been cancelled. In the previous Office action, claims 2-6 and 8-18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Currently amended claims 1, 7, and 13 include the allowable subject matter indicated in claims 2, 8, and 16 respectively.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-18 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The best prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to specifically teach or fairly suggest the specific limitations disclosed in claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-18 of the current invention. Prior art has teachings of barcode readers, methods of reading barcodes, and barcode reading computer programs providing instructions to acquire signal strengths of reflected light that is reflected from black and white bars, extract edge data that changes the signal strength from a black bar to a white bar, and vice versa, and ternarizes the edge data that is extracted. Prior art however fails to teach the barcode reader, barcode reading method, and a barcode reading computer program each

including a ternarizing processor, which assigns a state 1, a state 0, and a state -1, that have predetermined reference values respectively, to a plurality of module points in continuity, assigns a least squared error to the amplitude of a module that is to be linked to a path that connects each module point, as a path metric, and ternarizes a state of a module point that is at the origin of a path linkage of a survival path, taking a path for which a sum of path metrics that have gone through a predetermined path becomes a minimum as a survival path. These specific limitations are not found in prior art and moreover one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to come to the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Allyson N. Trail* whose telephone number is (571) 272-2406. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

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Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [allyson.trail@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Allyson N. Trail
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
February 21, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl D. Frech', with a stylized, flowing script.

KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER